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# Do We Get Less Than Truth On U. S. Foreign Policy?

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SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

WASHINGTON—The feeling that the Johnson administration has been telling less than the whole truth about foreign policy crises is placing the President in an unusual posture — on the defensive — as he prepares for the return of the 89th Congress next month for its election year session.

Revelations about peace feelers and the Dominican episode, published since Congress adjourned, including not yet released secret testimony heard by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, could make the going rough in the coming year for the State and Defense Departments and the Central Intelligence Agency as well as Mr. Johnson.

The situation is paradoxical. The U.S. is now in its 58th consecutive month of unprecedented prosperity. Polls show the President has the approval of more than 70 per cent of voters for his management of national affairs.

**BUT CAPITOL HILL** is due to receive a proposed budget for as much as \$107 billion for the next fiscal year, the greatest in history, largely because of mounting defense costs.

Instead of a cease fire in Southeast Asia by Christmas, there are prospects of continued escalation of the Viet Nam war, with 300,000 U.S. troops by spring and perhaps 500,000 by the end of 1966.

A magazine article by a veteran radio-television and newspaper analyst, Eric Sevareid, discloses that a peace feeler for negotiations to end fighting in Viet Nam more than 14 months ago was rejected by the State Department. Sevareid learned of the proposal made by U.N.

General Secretary U Thant from the late Adlai Stevenson, the subject of the article.

The State Department rejected the offer, for talks in Rangoon, Burma, probably because of the national election campaign, in which the challenger, Sen. Barry Goldwater, was handicapped in part by a "trigger-happy" reputation. President Johnson, in turn, was inhibited by the likelihood that acceptance of such proposals in the context of the election campaign would be interpreted as appeasement.

**THE STATE DEPARTMENT** last month denied, then confirmed the Sevareid report, denigrating the peace feeler as spurious. Since then, liberal critics of the President have been harsh in denouncing the credibility of official statements on such matters. Sen. Wayne L. Morse, (D-Ore.), a leading "dove" on Capitol Hill, has called for Secretary of State Dean Rusk's ouster.

Mr. Rusk, under Secretary Thomas Mann, Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and Admiral William F. Raborn, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, must answer embarrassing questions concerning such matters at a time when defense outlays alone may be increased by \$13 billion.

Secretary McNamara is already the economic czar and mobilization chief in fact, if not in title, as evidence by his leadership in the administration's rollback of aluminum and copper prices in recent weeks. The aluminum episode was another case of alleged cock-and-bull tales to the effect that the President was not using the threat of dumping some 1,300,000 tons of stockpiled metal on the market to force producers to roll back the primary metal price from

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